

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

June 20, 2005

AMENDMENT

I am supportive of this Board's effort to address the homelessness issue that impacts communities across Los Angeles County, in particular the efforts to better assist the large numbers of homeless families identified in the Homeless Count. My office has been involved in ongoing efforts to develop a year round homeless shelter in Long Beach, and we are very close to beginning renovation of the shelter site. We are also looking at opportunities to expand capacity of successful shelters currently in place, such as in the Whittier area, and we will utilize the information provided in the Homeless Count and in the Shelter Partnership study to further exploring other sustainable opportunities within my District.

To maximize the possibility of success of this important effort, I believe that we need to have the ability to focus resources on enhancements to the homeless services systems currently in place, **or** to develop new sites for homeless services in areas where they can be developed responsibly, **or** both.

MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

I further believe that these new sites should be constructed or rehabilitated with nothing less than the full support of the communities in which they would be placed.

I am concerned, however, that the \$20 million that is proposed to be set aside strictly for capital development, such as the construction of new homeless shelters, and the expansion of current shelters in place, is too restrictive a use of this money. I am also concerned about long-term sustainability of this increased bed capacity. Our action today, however well-intended, could result in the unintended consequence of constructing or expanding shelters that do not have the capacity to “grow the services” in tandem.

Furthermore, while I am very appreciative of the exhaustive planning efforts of Bring LA Home to address long-term funding of homeless services in Los Angeles County, I believe that this Board needs to be cognizant of the level of commitment we are making. We need to take a careful, measured approach to anything that will result in the County assuming ongoing primary responsibility for solving an issue that I fear will require significant expansion of County government and significant commitment of County resources, with no guarantees that our partner in this – LA City – will hold up their end.

I believe that we should allow greater flexibility for the use of this money to include both capital projects, services and/or ongoing operational costs for year-round homeless shelters. This would give us the opportunity to consider funding for the expansion of successful programs already in place, as well as examine the feasibility of development

of new sites.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the motion be amended as follows:

Allow greater flexibility for the use of this money for:

- a. construction of new year-round homeless shelters,
- b. expansion of beds in homeless shelters currently in existence, or
- c. services and/or ongoing operational costs for year-round homeless shelters.

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